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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for the Comoros

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension: 1 January to 31 December 2002

1. This country cooperation framework (CCF) for the Comoros (1997-2001) is based on the guidelines of the country strategy note 1996-2000. Originally, it was to end on 31 December 2001 and the new country cooperation framework was to be submitted for approval in September 2001.

2. The country cooperation framework (1997-2001) outlines the priority thematic areas of concentration and the modalities of cooperation between the Government of the Comoros and UNDP. Four thematic areas have been identified with a view to optimizing the impact of UNDP assistance, whose objective continues to be poverty eradication in synergy with other development partners. Those thematic areas are: (a) strengthening of governance; (b) improvement of decentralized health services through a strengthening of community participation; (c) strengthening of production capacities and development of sustainable livelihoods for the most disadvantaged; and (d) conservation of the environment and biodiversity.

3. No sooner was the current country cooperation framework approved than major upheavals in the country's socio-political situation occurred. A separatist movement took over Anjouan Island in August 1997, the elected President died in November 1998 and the interim Government was toppled by a military coup d'état in April 1999. In three years, the country had three heads of State and eight Governments. Following protracted negotiations, and in response to pressure by the international community, the country embarked on a national reconciliation process. A new constitution, giving island entities greater autonomy in development planning and management, will be submitted to a referendum before the end of the year and followed by general elections.

4. These developments had a considerable impact on the implementation of the country cooperation framework, and governance and resource mobilization were the

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areas most seriously affected. Coupled with this, institutional uncertainty and the lack of any clear indication of what the country's future institutional framework might be have made it impossible to initiate a new programming exercise. Despite these obstacles, UNDP intervention in the other areas of the country cooperation framework culminated in: (a) the development of income-generating activities through the promotion of small and micro-businesses and access to credit by target groups; (b) greater accessibility by the poor to quality health care and, as a result, an increase in the number of patients at the health centres in the districts covered by the project; (c) grass-roots participation in the management of health centres and cost recovery; (d) community involvement in the protection of biodiversity and the environment; and (e) the establishment of the first marine sanctuary.

5. With the exception of the World Health Organization (WHO), which has a biennial programme, the agencies of the United Nations system which have a presence in the country (UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund) have harmonized their programming cycle 1997-2001. These agencies were made aware of and agreed on the need to extend their current programming cycles by one year, since the political and institutional context is not conducive to launching a new programming exercise. All United Nations agencies operating in the Comoros, including those which have no local offices, are currently finalizing the common country assessment (CCA), in preparation for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), to be submitted in September 2001.

6. The extension of CCF by one year will make possible the consolidation of ongoing activities and the necessary expansion of certain activities, particularly on Anjouan Island, where the political situation and the embargo declared by the Organization of African Unity have impeded the implementation of activities as planned, consistent with the recommendations of the country review carried out in July 2000.

7. The extension of the CCF coverage period will also enable UNDP to help the Government to address the country's real problems and to elaborate a frame of reference adapted to the new institutional framework. The CCF exercise will be facilitated by the availability of the CCA and UNDAF documents now being prepared and consideration of the areas of intervention highlighted in the country review.

8. Lastly, this extension will make it possible to harmonize the programming cycle of the agencies of the United Nations Development Group with those of WHO.

9. In view of the above-mentioned considerations, the Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first CCF for the Comoros for a period of one year, beginning on 1 January 2002.

Annex

Resource mobilization target table for the Comoros (1997-2002)

Source	*Amount (In thousands of United States dollars)*	*Comments*
UNDP regular resources		
Estimated carry-over	(825)	Carry-over for TRAC 1 and 2 and for administrative and operational support services.
TRAC 1.1.1	2 944	Assigned immediately to country.
TRAC 1.1.2	0 to 66.7 per cent of TRAC 1.1.1	This range of percentages is presented for initial planning purposes only. The actual assignment will depend on the availability of high-quality programmes. Any increase in the range of percentages would also be subject to availability of resources.
TRAC 1.1.3	63	
Other resources		
SPPD/STS	582	
Subtotal	**2 674**[a]	
Other resources		
Government cost-sharing	-	
Third-party cost-sharing	1 721	
Funds, trust funds and other		
	of which:	
GEF	2 500	
Subtotal	**4 221**	
Grand total	**6 985**[a]	

[a] Not inclusive of TRAC 1.1.2, which is allocated regionally for subsequent country application.
Abbreviations: GEF = Global Environment Facility; SPPD = support for policy and programme development; STS = support for technical services; TRAC = target for resource assignment from the core.